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29 August 1972

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, AUG 29, REUTER -- FORMER FIGHTER RENE HARDY HAS ABANDONED HOPE OF CONFRONTING ALLEGED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS ALTMANN, WHO HAS ACCUSED HIM OF BETRAYING RESISTANCE LEADER JEN MOULIN TO THE GERMANS IN 1943.

HARDY, WHO WAS PREPARING TO RETURN TO PARIS AFTER A 48-HOUR VISIT, TOLD REPORTERS: "I AM STILL WAITING FOR HIM TO APPEAR, BUT I SEE THAT HE HAS MERELY CONFIRMED THAT HE IS A LIAR."

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ACCUSES ALTMANN, A BOLIVIAN CITIZEN FOR MANY YEARS, OF BEING KLAUS BARBIE, NAZI CHIEF IN THE FRENCH CITY OF LYONS DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

AS BARBIE, THE GOVERNMENT ALLEGES HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF HUNDREDS OF FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS, INCLUDING MOULIN.

ALTMANN ACCUSED 61-YEAR OLD HARDY OF BETRAYING THE RESISTANCE LEADER IN MEMOIRS ATTRIBUTED TO ALTMANN EARLIER THIS YEAR BY THE BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO.

HARDY WHO DENIES THE ACCUSATION, HOPED TO CONFRONT ALTMANN BEFORE JOURNALISTS AND THE AUTHORITIES BUT SAID ALTMANN SENT HIM A NOTE SAYING HE COULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE MEETING "FOR LEGAL REASONS."

REUTER BB/BBC 0040

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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